

IN SUPPORT OF HB 6798
**AN ACT REQUIRING LABELING OF BABY FOOD AND INFANT FORMULA CONTAINING GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED ORGANISMS**

Committee on Children:

I submit my testimony with the hope of lifting the trigger on GMO labeling in Connecticut. The people of Connecticut have spoken in the past; they want genetically engineered (GE) products labeled, yet our law is still not in effect.

Without mandatory, independent, peer-reviewed scientific long-term study, these crops should *never* have been allowed to market by the FDA. Biotech Agra-Chemical companies own patents on GE seeds, which disallow unsanctioned, independent studies. Science was not and is not part of the FDA approval process. Any 'test' summaries provided to the FDA are voluntary. The FDA's 1992 GE safety policy stands today, "*Ultimately, it is the food producer who is responsible for assuring safety.*"¹ Yet one biotech behemoth states clearly, "*Monsanto should not have to vouchsafe the safety of biotech food. Our interest is in selling as much of it as possible. Assuring its safety is the FDA's job.*"²

Steve Druker, US public interest lawyer and author adds, "Contrary to the assertions of its proponents, the massive enterprise to reconfigure the genetic core of the world's food supply is not based on sound science but on the systematic subversion of science – and it would collapse if subjected to an open airing of the facts." The real dialogue should be about a ban on GE crops until safety has been independently proven.

Whether we have children or are young adults, middle-aged or elderly - we all want the ability to clearly avoid GMOs because the issue of safety has fallen to the consumer. Without labeling that is not possible. Over 90% of consumers surveyed by Consumer Reports want GMO labeling. Please serve the people of Connecticut as you did before with GMO labeling, but now make it real. **Remove** the trigger from our GMO Labeling bill now. When you stand for that, we will all stand with you, and we will all be standing for the people.

Thank you.

Melissa Talarico
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¹ - *FDA Statement of Policy: Foods Derived from New Plant Varieties (GMO Policy) Federal Register, Volume 57, Page 129, 1992*

² - *Phillip Angell, Monsanto's Director of Corporate Communications, New York Times Magazine, October 25, 1998*